164. (Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

[exactly] two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

REMARKS

Claims 164-337 are pending in the application. Claims 164-213 have been elected in response to the election/restriction requirement. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 164 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Applicants have included clean and marked-up versions of the pending claims after entry of this amendment with the mailed copy of this Response.

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS

All future communications should be addressed as follows:

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CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance and action toward that end is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit Account No. 10-0447 (47171-00268USC1) for any fees inadvertently omitted which may be necessary now or during the pendency of this application, except for the issue fee.

Respectfully submitted,

October 22, 2001

Date

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